

**CITY OF ROCKVILLE**  
**Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**PLAYING RULES FOR “MINOR” LEAGUE**  
**T-BALL**

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**I. THE GAME**

- A. The official rules of baseball shall govern all play except as amended in these rules and regulations.
- B. Each game will be five (5) innings or 65 minutes of playing time. Team manager must have team line-up ready upon arrival at the field.
- C. In case of inclement weather or suspension of game, an official game will be two (2) complete innings.
- D. The field supervisor/umpire will have complete authority at the field.
- E. Scores and standings will not be kept.
- F. Protests are not allowed.

**II. FIELD DIMENSIONS**

- A. The distance between bases will be 40 feet.
- B. The pitcher's defensive position must be assumed at a minimum distance of 30 feet from home plate.

**III. EQUIPMENT**

- A. The City of Rockville, Department of Recreation and Parks will provide equipment.
- B. Shoes must be worn at all times. No player shall wear shoes with metal spikes or metal cleats.
- C. Only official T-ball bats will be used. Wooden bats are not permitted.
- D. Players at bat and on base are required to wear a helmet.

**IV. PLAYERS, BATTERS, RUNNERS, FIELDERS**

- A. Players:
  - 1. A minimum of seven (7) players to start the game. Maximum of ten (10) players on the field to play (4 outfielders or 3 outfielders and short fielder). All outfielders must assume their defensive positions out of the infield, or beyond a designated area, defined by the umpire.
  - 2. Each player must play at least two (2) innings in the field during the game.
  - 3. **Defensive team** must place priority on throwing the ball to first base to simulate putting the batter/runner “out” at first base in a conventional manner. As the bases fill with runners, the defensive team can then select where to throw the ball.  
*Note: Running with balls in possession to the first base or to the catcher (home plate) to make the out is procedurally incorrect. However, the first baseman can make an unassisted out at first base.*
- B. Substitution:
  - 1. A player may enter or leave the field or position at any time (free substitution).

2. The pitchers, catchers, and first baseman's position must be changed every inning. Once a player has played either of these positions, he or she cannot return to the same position for the remainder of the game. However, a player may play all three positions in the game.

C. Batting Requirements

1. Teams will have a fixed batting order prepared before each game with all present team members on it. Latecomers shall be added to the end of the order.
2. Each player will take his/her turn at bat with no regard to whether or not he/she played in the field the previous inning or whether or not he/she played in the field when the team retired from the inning at bat.
3. Each batter who successfully makes contact and hits the ball the ten (10) feet minimum distance should then proceed to run to first base and stop. After the next batter hits the ball, each player should run to the next base and stop. After the last batter up (8<sup>th</sup> batter), all players should run all bases, finishing with home plate.
4. An inning will end after eight (8) players have batted.
5. Bunting will not be allowed. A ball must go at least ten feet to be considered a hit (if not, the batter will need hit the ball again).
6. If a ball is caught in the air by the defensive team, the batter will continue to run to base.
7. Every batter will have the chance to hit the ball off the tee. Strikes will not be counted.
8. A batter who throws a bat in an unsportsmanlike manner so as to endanger players or spectators will be called out (not allowed to run bases) and may be ejected from the game. It is recommended that the umpire gives a warning for the first offense; however, this is not required.
9. Sliding at the discretion of the umpire will result in that player being out. The runner is out if a defensive player has the ball and the runner remains on his feet and deliberately, with force, crashes into the defensive player.
10. Overthrows, beyond the field of play, will result in the batter/runner scoring a run.

D. Pitching

1. The designated pitcher must stay within his/her required distance until the ball is hit.
2. Coaches should emphasize to throw the ball to the pitcher in order to stop play before the next batter hits.

## **V. SCORING**

Score will not be kept. No more than eight (8) batters may hit in a single inning. The sides change regardless of the number of outs at the time.

## **VI. VIOLATIONS OF MODIFICATIONS**

- A. Any violations of these rules should immediately be corrected before the game continues.
- B. Continued violation of these rules may result in the coach being removed from the game.

## **VII. MANAGER/SPECTATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1. Managers must have team line-up ready upon arrival at the field.
- 2. All managers are responsible for their teams taking the field promptly before games and vacating the field and dugout area promptly after games.
- 3. Each manager shall designate a “dugout dad” or “dugout mom” to be responsible for bench conduct by the players.
- 4. All players must remain in the dugout area during the game.
- 5. Managers are responsible for the behavior of their team players and parents. Sportsmanship is mandatory in all aspects of the game. Chanting (yelling in unison) or heckling of the other team or its players is not permitted.
- 6. Smoking is not allowed in the field or dugout area.
- 7. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the premises.

## **VIII. CONCUSSION AWARENESS**

To help keep kids in the game for life, we ask that all coaches, parents, and participants become aware of concussion signs, symptoms, and prevention. The City of Rockville Sports Division has provided concussion awareness information on our website at [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports), please review and become familiar.

Any participant who may appear to have or has a concussion may not return to play until the Sports Division has received a note from the participants' doctor that states the participant has been approved to continue sport activity. The note must be received prior to the next league activity. This includes all practices and games. City of Rockville staff has the authority to sit a participant out of sport activity if any signs/symptoms of concussion are noticed. The purpose of this policy is to keep all participants safe and healthy.



**City of Rockville  
Department of Recreation and Parks**

**ATHLETIC FIELD  
CONDITION, MAINTENANCE AND CLOSURE POLICY**

The City of Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks will make every attempt to allow play of all athletic games when and where they are scheduled. The City or affiliate groups will comply with the following guidelines concerning athletic field use during and after inclement weather, when play could cause damage and/or affect the future use of an athletic field or subject athletes to a possible injurious situation.

In order to ensure safe athletic field use, the following criteria will be considered to determine if a game or practice will be postponed or cancelled:

- First sighting of lightning and/or thunder as witnessed by the official and/or site supervisor. (Persons should immediately seek lightning shelters, maintenance buildings and/or automobiles.)
- Standing water on any part of the playing surface.
- One-half inch of rain or more has fallen in the last 24 hours.
- Two inches of snow or more has fallen in the last 24 hours.
- Playing area of field is icy or frozen.
- Ground clings or cakes to shoes or cleats.
- Steady rain is falling.
- Playing area of field does not provide adequate footing.
- Potential of severe playing surface damage.

If any of the above conditions are in existence at the time of scheduled field use, that game or practice shall be postponed or cancelled. The responsibility for postponing a game or practice prior to its scheduled time rests with the Athletic Fields Section of the Parks and Facilities Maintenance Division or, if not available, the Sports Division. Decisions will be made on a field-by-field basis no later than one-half hour prior to a game or practice time. The scheduled official has responsibility for determining the playability of the field he/she is assigned to at game time. All athletic fields shall be closed annually from approximately December 1 to on or about March 15 for maintenance and repairs.

Adopted: June 1, 1992

Revised: June 1, 1995, December 9, 2002, February 13, 2013